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HANDLE VIA [redacted]

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

[redacted]

THE NRO STAFF

8 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR [redacted]

MR. [redacted]
MAJ [redacted],

SUBJECT: USIB Guidance for the FY-1973 NRP Budget and Five Year Program (FY-1973-1977)

Last year Dr. McLucas forwarded a preliminary identification of FY-1972 NRP program issues and questions on which USIB guidance was desired (Attached). It is now time to identify issues and questions for FY-1973.

I would appreciate your views in this area. If you feel that there are potentially significant issues and questions for FY-[redacted]ch require addressal by USIB, please forward t[redacted] same format used last year. Request inputs by 12 February 1971.

[redacted]

Captain, USN

Attachment
[redacted]2832-70

IDEALIST

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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 27, 1970

Dear Dick:

Two years ago Dr. Flax provided a statement of the major issues which he had foreseen for the NRP budget for Fiscal Year 1970. This year I am returning to that procedure since you may wish to give special attention to the requirements aspect of these issues or provide other guidance as you deem appropriate.

It is not possible to identify the issues with precision or anticipate just what will occur, but the attachment includes my assessment of the areas of primary interest at this time. It is hoped that a reassessment of requirements in light of changing intelligence needs and priorities as they relate to the NRP issues noted will contribute to their ultimate resolution by the Executive Committee.

The NRO Staff is available to work with the Subcommittees to sharpen any issues as required. [redacted]

[redacted]

Atch
Preliminary Identification FY 72
NRP Program Issues and Questions
on Which USIB Guidance is Desired

The Honorable Richard Helms, Chairman
United States Intelligence Board
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

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Preliminary Identification of FY 1972 NRP Program Issues and Questions on Which USIB Guidance is Desired

A. STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY

1. Current NRO Plans. Current planning does not consider potential collection requirements associated with monitoring a Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

2. Probable Budget Issue. Unknown at this time.

3. USIB Guidance Desired. What requirements will be created by a treaty? This question is also raised below, specifically related to certain systems.

B. VHR AND IMMEDIATE RECOVERY SYSTEMS

1. Current NRO Plans. No system go-ahead has been given to either system. The NRO budget includes funds for an immediate recovery system start in FY 72 and no funds for VHR system start until at least FY 76.

2. Probable Budget Issue. When should the systems be built?

3. USIB Guidance Desired. What is the requirement for VHR, including consideration of the potential SALT environment?

C. VULNERABILITY

1. Current NRO Plans. By NRP ExCom direction a very limited survivability effort is being carried on by the NRO, based on the present National estimate of the Soviets not using their capability.

2. Probable Budget Issue. Should more dollars be spent in this area?

3. USIB Guidance Desired. Is there a requirement for the NRO to expend more effort to protect our satellites or to provide alternate solutions for overhead reconnaissance in a hostile environment?

D. ALL-WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE

[redacted]

2. Probable Budget Issue. Why isn't the NRO doing more in this area?

3. USIB Guidance Desired [redacted]